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	Mysore
	Tiruchirappalli
	Palghat
	Trivandrum
South Central	Guntakal
	Hubli
	Hyderabad
	Secunderabad
	Vijaywada
South Eastern	Adra
	Bilaspur
	Chakradharpur
	Kharagpur
	Khurda
	Waltair
	Sambalpur
	Nagpur
Western	Ajmer
	Bhavnagar
	Mumbai
	Jaipur
	Kota
	Ratlam
	Vadodara
	Rajkot

*Nanded being set up.

Government has decided to set up eight new Divisions at Agra, Ahmedabad, Guntur, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Rangiya and Singrauli.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to set up six new Railways Zones as under :

	HQ
(i) East-Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
(ii) North-Central Railway	Allahabad
(iii) East-Central Railway	Hajipur
(iv) North-Western Railway	Jaipur
(v) South-Western Railway	Bangalore
(vi) West-Central Railway	Jabalpur

(d) New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(e) The formation of new Zones/Divisions is expected to provide relief to the heavily worked zones/divisions, improve accessibility and enable the administration to have an effective control over the compact zones/divisions leading to better service and customer satisfaction.

(f) The Advisors' Committee set up by the Board to examine the issue had recommended the location of the Headquarter of North-Western Zone at Jaipur.

(g) While the details of estimated cost are being worked out, the estimated cost provided in the Pink Book is Rs. 41.66 Cr. for land, Buildings and other development works, quarters etc. An amount of Rs. 5.24 Cr. has been provided for the year 1997-98

[English]

Upgradation of Posts

5354. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some posts of Assistant Officers were upgraded in 1973 and 1980 in Indian Railways to Senior Scale;

(b) whether this upgradation was done mainly to give benefit to the stagnated group 'B' officers and commitment in this regard was given to the Cabinet;

(c) if so, the number of posts upgraded;

(d) the number of Group 'B' officers regularised against these posts;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in regularising the Group 'B' officers; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give the benefit to the Group 'B' officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) In 1973 and 1980, 220 and 382 posts, respectively, of Assistant Officers were upgraded to Senior Scale. These upgradations were inter-alia to facilitate larger induction of Group 'B' officers into Group 'A/Jr. Scale.

(d) and (e) Only Group 'A' Officers are eligible for regular promotion to Senior Scale posts. Group 'B' Officers are first inducted into Junior Scale of Group 'A', whereafter they are considered for promotion to Sr. Scale, subject to their fulfilling the eligibility conditions for such promotion.

(f) Does not arise.

Nickle Plant

5355. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been importing Nickel;

(b) whether any study has been made at various mineral belts to find out nickel ore reserve in the country;

(c) whether there is a vast nickel reserve in the Sukinda region of Orissa;

(d) whether the Government proposed to set up of a Nickel Plant in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The country has to depend totally on imports to meet the demand of Nickel in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India undertook nickel investigations in several potential sectors in Orissa, Bihar, Manipur-Nagaland, Andamans, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and in several other locations in Peninsular India where potential geological set up exists. The Sukinda Nickel Ferrous Ultramatic complex is the prime amongst them.

(c) Yes, Sir. Nickel ferrous ore exists apart from Nickel ferrous leonites over-burden rocks in the chromite areas in Orissa. The biggest resource of nickel ore in a multi-metal complex in India occur in Sukinda area in Orissa.

(d) and (e) The Hindustan Zinc Limited has signed an MOU with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

for setting up a technology proving plant which is estimated to cost Rs. 8 crores for extraction of nickel from chromite over-burden.

Amount Allocated by Government on Promotion of Tourism

5356. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government and actual amount spent for the development of tourism in the States during each of last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the details of ongoing tourism projects in the States started by the Union Government and the amount invested in these projects during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The details of amount sanctioned each year and the releases made for these projects to State/Union Territory Govts. during last three years for Tourism Projects is given in statement enclosed. The projects for which assistance was provided include: Tourist complexes, Wayside Amenities, Tourist Reception Centres, Yatri Niwases, Refurbishment of Monuments, Adventure Tourism projects, Fairs and Festivals and Publicity support to the State Governments.

Statement

Central financial assistance sanctioned and released to State/Union Territory Governments during last three years

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	174.64	73.23	13.46	9.00	125.50	20.37
Assam	52.99	27.24	70.24	23.30	153.46	29.82
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	52.26	3.00	3.00	1.50
Bihar	112.12	45.00	115.84	53.53	41.00	6.50
Goa	161.32	99.72	221.55	104.45	94.56	47.53
Gujarat	21.19	11.00	7.98	6.96	82.21	33.12
Haryana	188.96	65.98	126.91	91.29	121.38	31.75
Himachal Pradesh	356.85	140.91	485.91	238.75	200.93	54.64
Jammu & Kashmir	215.98	108.55	150.30	51.60	88.47	11.75
Karnataka	229.96	104.50	229.36	89.55	356.89	124.28
Kerala	307.05	146.00	209.94	83.95	235.59	103.00
Madhya Pradesh	9.32	5.00	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	273.46	103.92	83.64	23.90	187.69	82.50